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Bustling market

*Demand for real estate in the
Highlands growing in wake of
COVID-19*

JENN WATT

Editor

Cottage owners looking to sell their property this summer should have little trouble doing so, with strong demand in the Haliburton Highlands and throughout the region.

Several factors have converged to make buying property in cottage country even more appealing than usual including low interest rates, better services and with the arrival of COVID-19, a getaway outside of the GTA.

Andrew Hodgson, broker of record/owner of Century 21 Granite Realty Group, said June has been incredibly busy.

"June is as hot of a market as I've seen in 14 years I've been in the business. Really hot," he said. Prices are up 12 per cent over last year, he added. So far, there aren't many properties on the market. "People were very much hesitant to list their properties early. Now they know the market's rolling, you're seeing lots of listings start to come on."

Hodgson said the year started slow, especially through March and April, thanks to a chilling effect from the coronavirus.

"Mostly because people didn't think we'd have any market, so why would

see COTTAGE page 3



Hawk takes flight

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student and Red Hawks guard Colin Glecoff leaps up to the net for a layup on Tuesday, June 30 at Rotary Park in Haliburton. Temperatures soared above 30 degrees Celsius last week, drawing people to the park to swim, walk, play tennis and basketball./DARREN LUM Staff

Masks recommended, not (yet) mandated

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Mandatory mask wearing orders are spreading throughout Canadian cities, with governments and public health units in Ontario, including Toronto, Sudbury and Durham region, and Quebec issuing orders to residents to wear non-medical face masks on public transit, in businesses and indoor spaces beginning this month, in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Wearing a mask in Haliburton County is recommended, but is still considered voluntary. The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit said, "at this time, the most current message is that it is recommended that people wear a face covering in public where physical distancing is a challenge or not possible."

To date, one person in Haliburton County has an active confirmed case of COVID-19, with nine local cases of the virus resolved. Positive cases of residents who are tested in Haliburton County but have a primary residence elsewhere are included in data from their home health unit. In the HKPR region, which includes Haliburton County as well as Northumberland and City of Kawartha Lakes, 202 cases have been confirmed as of press time, with 170 of those cases resolved.

At a June 18 HKPR District Health Unit board of health meeting, Mayor of Cobourg John Henderson, asked Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, the health unit's medical officer of health, if there would be at some point a determination from the board to promote mask wearing as the region was

see ENFORCING page 3



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Marcia Bell* Chris James*
Erin Nicholls* Chris Smolarz*

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Restyling business

Hairstylist Lacey Dovell of Lacey's Hair Design is seen through the window cutting the hair of her client Lauren Wilson during a soft opening "practice run" on Tuesday, June 30 in Haliburton. Wilson was happy to have her hair cut and styled since her last styling was in February. Appointments are booked until July 20. Dovell, who opened on July 1, said the different COVID-19 safety protocols introduced by health agencies and levels of government posed challenges to reopening because they didn't always align. /DARREN LUM Staff

Blue jays develop taste for address signs

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Blue jays have been wreaking havoc on blue and white 911 residential address signs throughout the county, with hundreds of signs damaged as the jays peel their covering away.

The county experienced a similar issue in summer of 2014, with the birds causing widespread damage to address signs. "We were hoping it was a one-time issue," Haliburton County public works director Craig Douglas told county councillors during a meeting in late June.

"We're thinking maybe 300 or 400 signs have been impacted, and maybe more," Douglas said. "I think the most efficient thing for staff to do is to replace them in bulk, including the little plastic cover that goes on, so this never happens again."

Previously, the county had attempted to get residents to pay for their replacement signs, at a cost of \$7 per unit at the time, and Douglas told council a lot of staff time was spent trying to collect a small amount of money from residents. "In the past we were out, back and forth a lot, trying to collect \$7 from the property owners," he

“
I think it's a health and safety issue, and we want to get on it right away.

— Craig Douglas, director of public works

said, "we found that we were tracking back, sending letters back and forth, all over the county, trying to install these things."

Douglas told council the cost per sign with plastic cover would cost the county approximately \$15 per unit. "I think it's a health and safety issue, and we want to get on it right away," he said.

"That's an awful lot of administration to chase everybody for \$7," said Warden Liz Daniels.

Teenager airlifted for ATV accident injuries

A 16-year-old ATV driver was taken to hospital with a broken elbow and leg after an accident in Haliburton on the evening of July 3.

Haliburton Highlands OPP said the driver had driven off of Indian Point Road into the north ditch.

"The male driver stated he was travelling approximately 30 kilometres an hour and lost control," said Liane Spong-Hooyenga, detachment commander with the Haliburton Highlands OPP. "The ATV struck a tree and the male was ejected from the vehicle. He was wearing a helmet at the time, but no other protective cloth-

ing."
The driver, a resident of Toronto visiting a family cottage, was taken by Lindsay EMS to Haliburton Hospital, and then airlifted by ORNGE to St. Michael's hospital in Toronto for surgery, according to police.

"Police have confirmed the male had surgery for his injuries and is expected to make a full recovery," said Spong-Hooyenga.

Spong-Hooyenga said conditions at the time were clear and dry, and police are still investigating the accident.

- Staff

Enforcing mask mandate would be challenging

from page 1

moving into the province's Phase 2 of reopening. He pointed toward the City of Guelph, which had the week before issued an order under the Health Protection and Promotion Act requiring those going into commercial establishments to wear a face covering, and said he was receiving many questions on that particular concern.

"With regard to the wearing of masks, we've been consistent with messaging policy direction from the province and also from the federal government, in that the use of masks is currently recommended for the public when they're out and they're not able to maintain that six feet of distance from other people, or the two metres from other people," said Noseworthy. "The public health messaging that we're following to date is recommending that people stay home if they're ill, that they wash their hands frequently and thoroughly, that they practice physical distancing, so staying six feet away from other people when they're out and about, and if they can't maintain that physical distance, that they wear a cloth mask or cloth face covering."

In an email to the *Echo* last week, Noseworthy said, "These are the measures that will help keep us all healthy – more so than knowing that someone in your town tested positive."

She said the public health unit is "monitoring the situation."

Factors that need to be taken into account prior to issuing a Section 22 Class Order – making masks mandatory when visiting businesses – include whether the order is a reasonable approach to the situation, if the health unit staff can enforce the order, can all people tolerate wearing a mask, and whether people can afford to purchase masks, said Noseworthy last week.

"At this point in time I'm maintaining alliance with the provincial policy, with regard to the use of masks," she said in the June 18 meeting. "When you consider whether or not we should be recommending masks, we have to look at, if it's under an order, do we have the

capacity to enforce the order? ... Then if you require people to wear masks, for those of our population that can't afford to buy masks, where are they going to obtain masks, and so it becomes an equity issue. So those are the sorts of things we need to think about, when we think about issuing orders around the use of masks ... So we'll be watching what the province is doing with regards to this issue."

To date, the province has pushed back on a blanket order mandating masks, instead noting that individual health units can make that call. The Ontario.ca website recommends a face covering, in particular a "non-medical mask such as a cloth mask" when physical distancing and keeping two metres apart is not possible, for example on public transit, in smaller grocery stores or pharmacies and when you are receiving essential services. It also notes that "face coverings will not protect you from getting COVID-19," and recommends instead minimizing errands to a single trip where possible, avoiding close contact with others and keeping at least two metres from others outside your household, washing hands regularly or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer and practicing proper cough and sneeze etiquette. Children under the age of two, anyone who has trouble breathing and anyone unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance should not wear a mask.

"Some municipalities across the province are now beginning to issue bylaws requiring mandatory mask wearing while residents are shopping in businesses or riding transit," Noseworthy told the *Echo* last week. "I understand this is currently being discussed by some of our [region's] municipalities and they would also need to review the above considerations and look at how they would enforce it from a municipal perspective."

Noseworthy noted in the board of health meeting that as with other policies and decisions made since COVID-19 first started spreading, "information has been evolving and policies have been changing."

As the province relaxes shelter in place measures ini-

tiated in March, the health unit has been working with businesses wishing to reopen.

"The health unit is directing workplaces and employees to wear a mask if they are unable to maintain a two metre (six foot) distance from clients/customers and there are no physical barriers in place to protect the staff and customer," said Noseworthy. "Depending on the setup of a food establishment, it's also strongly recommended servers and waiters/waitresses wear masks as they bring food to the customers."

Noseworthy said it was essential for any workplace to have the correct personal protective equipment required to keep staff safe during the pandemic. "Workers must use protective equipment as required by their employer and be trained in its proper fit, use, storage, cleaning, maintenance and limitations," she said. Those with concerns regarding business operations were asked to contact the health unit. The Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team also spoke to mask use in helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"You should wear a mask that fits snugly over your nose and mouth to prevent viral transmission from your [mouth] any time you are near anybody who is not part of your household," wrote the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team in a column for the *Echo* last week. "You should stay six feet from anyone who is not masked. [They] may infect you if they are not masked. Be courteous and safe: wear a mask. Ask others to do the same. You should minimize your time in indoor spaces with multiple people. You should move as many activities as possible outdoors. You should wash your hands frequently. And you should stay home, away from even your own family members, if you feel sick."

"...[A]nother person's breathing, talking, singing, coughing, could spread the virus," added Dr. Norm Botum. "Wearing a mask will minimize your risk of spreading viruses in this manner. Wearing a well-fitting mask may also reduce your risk of picking up viral particles." For further information visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/face-coverings-and-face-masks>.

Cottage lifestyle appealing during pandemic

from page 1

they put their cottage on the market? They didn't know people could show [the property]; early days of COVID there was obviously a lot of fear," he said, adding that many people also decided to use their property to get out of the city when COVID-19 self-isolation recommendations first came into place.

Depending on what is measured, local real estate agents say sales are up substantially for the month of June 2020 over June 2019, anywhere from 50 to nearly 70 per cent.

The Lakelands Association of Realtors, which represents 800 realtors across the cottage country region including Bracebridge, Huntsville, Orillia, and the Haliburton Highlands, shows waterfront sales at 360 for June, up from 194 in May – the highest they've been in at least three years.

"We had a very slow start to the season, but as June numbers suggest, the market's been very, very robust, and equally interesting is active listings for the end of June compared to the same time last year is down by 51 per cent for residential units and down by 25 per cent for vacant land," said Anthony vanLieshout, broker of record for Trillium Team Royal LePage Lakes of Haliburton.

"We've seen this June surge in sales with very little inventory and as a result we've had upward pressure

on prices."

COVID-19 has played an obvious role in the upswing in the market, real estate agents agree. Melanie Hevesi, broker at RE/MAX Professionals North, said it can be easier to weather the restrictions from the pandemic in the Highlands than it would be in a more urban setting.

"I feel that COVID is playing a role in the increase. We typically have an active spring and summer for waterfront property sales, but this year, I think having a cottage is even more attractive to people so they have a place to go, out of the city, and be able to get outside and take part in recreational activities that they don't have access to at home, with everything being closed down," she said.

Hodgson said he's watched the community grow over the years and become busier and more diversified. He predicts that interest in locating to the Highlands will only continue to grow.

"We have more services, we have more things for people to do, that's because we have new people coming in. It's going to demand more services from our governments, it's going to demand better roads, but we're going to [have] bigger tax bases every year," he said, calling the change positive.

A side effect of the self-isolation required from COVID-19 has been that many workers, and their employers, are learning how much can be done from home. As long as internet connectivity continues to

“

I think having a cottage is even more attractive to people so they have a place to go, out of the city, and be able to get outside ...

— Melanie Hevesi

improve in the area, growth in real estate could come in part from people choosing to telecommute. Add that to the other factors attracting people to the Highlands, and vanLieshout said he expects demand to continue to be strong.

"Overall, based on COVID-19 highlighting the sense of people wanting some elbow room and some space, highlighting the ability to be able to work from home, combined with aging demographics, baby boomers, proximity of services getting closer and closer: the future of Haliburton County is very, very bright," he said.

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Student inspired to raise awareness of injustices

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

April Kovacs, a Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Grade 11 art student, is hoping the digital collage she created will have a lasting impression on people and help promote equality.

April created her original artwork earlier this year in response to the Black Lives Matter protests that gained momentum around the world following the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

The piece, which she completed in multiple layers on a tablet computer using a stylus, was a self-directed final art project for the Grade 11 drawing class at HHSS.

In her artist's statement, April said her work's message is about promoting equality.

"My overall, and I think fairly obvious message is equality for the Black Lives Matter movement. I want people to understand that we are all equal, no matter the colour of our skin. The fists are a very important symbol for the movement as it represents support solidarity. They're also glowing, and the glow originates from the black fist (the symbol of the movement) at the front of the group and spreads amongst the rest of the hands that have all different skin tones, showing their support. To me, I've always thought of glowing to represent change and hope. The equal symbol subtly in the background, which pretty much sums up the whole idea of the movement: equality. Behind all this, I collaged pictures of people's signs, and of people protesting; this shows that other people support the cause. Lastly, there's a silhouette of a person's head, which represents the people who don't, for some reason, understand or support the cause. On this silhouette, there's a message that I would like to get to those people to understand: Our skin colour may be different, but we all bleed red. There may not be too much detail on the image, because I wanted something simplistic, and have nothing that would distract people from the message, same goes for the colour palette."

April said she had difficulty coming up with the design because of the importance of the cause.

"I really wanted something that would stand out. I wanted to show that I wasn't alone in this idea, so I did the collage of other people supporting," she wrote in an email. "[The] quote on the image was the hardest to come up with, because I wanted something original, but I had trouble straying away from other people's messages. So, I kept telling myself, what do I want to say? It hit me in the middle of the night, and I thought it was perfect. It started out as a question at first, a genuine concern that



This digital collage, which features symbolic imagery of unity and strength, and includes the statement, "Our skin colour may be different, BUT we all bleed red," was created by April Kovacs. Her goal is to encourage equality in society as a response to the Black Lives Matter movement. The HHSS Grade 11 art student created the work for school. /Submitted

sure, we may be different on the outside, but why treat others differently because of that? We're all human. We all bleed red. The glow around the hands [was] a last minute touch, that I think brought the piece together."

April said raising awareness is an essential part of moving forward as society.

"Art is a reflection of our culture, and I believe that showing inclusiveness would highly impact the furthering of our culture when people look back on these pieces, and hopefully learn from the lessons that they teach. Hopefully, with art, people are able to see a new perspective on certain matters," she wrote.

She said equality improves happiness and that those

who do not need to fear abuse from others have a better chance of achieving it.

"It's hard to be happy in a world where you're afraid to walk out [of your] home because you fear abuse and slander. This doesn't just include the brutality against Black people, but all people of all races, genders, and beliefs. It's not fair, and it's horrible to see innocent people who don't deserve such things suffer, and it makes me sad and frustrated with the world, because we should know better by this point. Some people believe that they are the superior being, but what gives them the right to think that? It's likely because that's what they were taught growing up, but that shouldn't be an excuse. I don't believe there are qualities that can justify a superior being. It's important to remember that despite our differences, at the end of the day, we're all human. I believe the day we learn to accept each other with open arms will probably be the happiest day on earth," she wrote.

April said she has not experienced racism personally, but believes she has a semblance of understanding experiencing sexism.

"Seeing things like sexist comments towards women hurts my confidence and my self-esteem. I have friends who've dealt with sexism, which also hurts to see because they are absolutely amazing people who don't deserve such things. I'm sure this goes hand in hand with people who deal with racism too. Nearly every day, there's new accounts of racism, and it sucks to see and it makes me disappointed in humanity," she wrote in an email.

Her art teacher Karen Gervais wrote in an email that April and other students "were asked to consider the various purposes art serves to both individual and society as well as the audience they were hoping to impact with their work. After working through some drafts of ideas that were more generalized statements about awareness of the Black Lives Matter movement, I challenged April to do some reading about the issues and really speak from her authentic voice, experience and also to the audience she was trying to reach with her work. I encouraged her to consider how she, speaking from her own place and identity, could make change. April took up this challenge and evolved the work into the strong visual statement I have shared."

This piece is also available to view on the HHSS website and there are tentative plans to create printed posters or T-shirts this fall as part of an equity initiatives effort, Gervais added.

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WARD 5

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Haliburton Lake (West Bay)
5814 Haliburton Lake Road

Haliburton Lake
1245 Hodgson Road

Basshaunt Lake (No Motor Lake)
1197 Basshaunt Lake Road

Eagle Lake
2661 Eagle Lake Road

Redstone Lake
1201 Klondike Road



Walt McKechnie is the Councillor for Ward 5 in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Cottage/Lake Associations

Percy Lake Ratepayers Association
<https://plra.ca/>

Redstone Lake Cottager's Association
www.redstonelake.com/default.asp

Haliburton Lake Cottager's Association
www.haliburtonlake.com/

Eagle Moose Lake Properties Association
<https://emlpo.ca/>

Beaches

Eagle Lake Beach
2661 Eagle Lake Road
Sandy Beach, Public
Washrooms, Picnic Shelter, Playground (Temporarily Closed Due to COVID-19)

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1267 Hodgson Road
Sandy Beach, Public
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Donations of operational electronic devices, including mobile phones, tablets, laptops or desktop computers are needed for the initiative Caring Connection, which will bring unused or no longer wanted devices to residents in need in the community. / DARREN LUM Staff



Caring Connection needs community's help

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

While the world has stayed apart to stay together during the ongoing pandemic some residents have been left isolated in Haliburton County.

Some may not get to see or hear from a grandchild for months. Others may struggle with their mental health without having a social outlet outside their home. Stress may build as members of the family compete to use the same piece of technology to do their school assignments or tasks for work.

To help these community residents in need of connectivity, the people of SIRCH Community Services, Rotaract Haliburton Highlands, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Kawartha Lakes – Haliburton came up with the eight-week program, Caring Connection.

As of July 5, they are accepting used and operational mobile phones, tablets, laptop and desktop computers in the hopes of distributing them to residents in need.

"Volunteers will clear the personal data off of each device, update the software, and upload relevant applications. Repurposed devices will then be distributed to local community members that have an urgent need for a communicative device," a press release reads. "A volunteer Rotaractor – who has been trained by Big Brothers and Big Sisters – will be paired up with each person receiving a device to ensure that they know how to use their device and can get as much value as possible out of it. Children will have the opportunity to request continued mentorship with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of

Kawartha Lakes – Haliburton."

The goal for Caring Connection is to collect 500 devices by mid-August when the collection drive ends.

An evaluation of the project will be conducted to assess the impact.

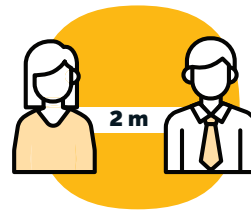
The idea for this initiative came out of the virtual meetings held by the Service Providers' Network during the initial onset of COVID-19, which worked on coordinating services and identifying gaps in society. One of the gaps was ensuring there is connectivity for individuals and families, who were isolated and struggling. After the strong showing of support from the community through SIRCH's Rally for Rhubarb, SIRCH executive director Gena Robertson was prompted by a request of possible project ideas for Rotaractors by Christine Carr, director of service projects for Rotaract Haliburton Highlands to tackle connectivity issues during the pandemic.

Since SIRCH Repair Cafes were suspended because of COVID-19, some of the funds for that effort were reallocated to the co-ordination of this initiative.

"We knew that we wouldn't be able to run any Repair Cafes in the short term, so requested to have some of that grant funding reallocated to help with this project. We hired Rebecca Anderson who was both a Repair Cafe volunteer, and was a founder of Rotaract in Haliburton. Literally it was like everything fell into place. I know people will dig out their good used phones and computers to give to someone in need – we have an extremely generous community," said Robertson in a prepared statement.

Anyone interested in donating can call SIRCH 705-457-1742 to arrange a drop off or pick up.

As more businesses and services reopen, and with social gatherings increased to 10 people, we all must continue our efforts to protect each other.



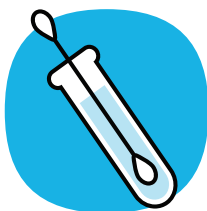
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points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Keeping COVID-19 at bay

SUMMER IS HERE, services and businesses are reopening, and all around us we see a jarring collision of perspectives on the coronavirus and the measures needed to protect ourselves. Perhaps more than ever, we are confronted with confusing opinions about how best to make our way through the world – from pleas for continued self-isolation from one group, to the open flouting of any precautions from another.

Particularly in Haliburton County, which was able to enter Phase 2 well before the GTA, and which has had 10 confirmed (nine resolved) COVID-19 cases total since March, risk appears low, and it may seem that precautions can be set aside, or taken less seriously.

However, what we need to remember is that our good fortunes have come at least in part from abiding by the recommendations from the health unit and medical staff who asked us to isolate early, physically distance, practice hand hygiene and don masks when indoors. Our behaviours then helped to limit the spread of the virus, but as we're learning, this is an ongoing effort.

And that ongoing effort is hard. We've been cooped up for so long, our movements restricted, our favourite things off limits. As the province "re-

pens," it can be tempting to say "forget it – I'm going to the store without a mask, I'm giving my neighbour a big hug, and I'm throwing this Purell into the garbage can!"

But what we need to remember is that we are in a relatively good position in Haliburton because of what we've done to get here. The distancing, the self-isolating, the masks, they've all been working and they are still needed.

We need only to look to our neighbours to the south to be reminded of what can happen when expert advice is not heeded. The U.S. has been setting records day after day for coronavirus spread, with 50,000 new cases in a single day last week and the country's infectious disease expert Dr.

Anthony Fauci warning it could surge to 100,000 cases a day.

Canada is not the United States and Haliburton is not close to any epicentre of virus spread, but we also cannot become complacent just because we haven't been hit hard.

Our smattering of cases and relative good health is thanks to thousands upon thousands of people making small decisions day in and day out to protect each other.

We have to keep it up expressly because we are seeing so few cases. It's working. Let's keep at it.



jenn
watt

Editorial

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Lily light

by Darren Lum

Times are a-changing

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 was the day for me! The day schools were closed for what we thought would be a couple of weeks. Public spaces were told to close down as the coronavirus pandemic was formally announced. Only businesses that the provincial government deemed essential were permitted to stay open. Toilet paper and cleaning supplies became a commodity almost more valuable than gold.

Within days of March 13 many of the snowbirds flocked home and quarantined to keep us all safe. We all anxiously awaited what was next.

Thankfully, Haliburton County would go on to experience 10 cases of COVID-19 (to date) and our frontline workers were heroic in their efforts to keep us safe and provide much needed services.

Time passed and we stayed home knowing that unnecessary human contact put us at risk of getting COVID-19. And then the waiting and guessing game began. What would be next? Would schools open up, and if so, when? Would there be a COVID-19 outbreak locally? How could we protect ourselves? All summer activities and events were cancelled. What would be next? The questions were endless.

We watched the news. We watched the curve flatten. We enthusiastically anticipated the government announcements about business openings. We wanted life to return to some sense of normal. But then we all realized that times are a-changing.

The term "social circle" now defines our social lives and the peo-

ple that we choose to get close to as we all adapt to changing times. What this means for Downtown Haliburton is that we will have to cancel Midnight Madness and Colourfest for 2020. We all love these events but we have to respect physical distancing and avoid large groups if we are to protect our great village.

So what is happening in Downtown Haliburton during these changing times, and as we all excitedly anticipate Stage 3 of economic revival? We have expanded restaurant patios onto Highland Street. This is a win for our local restaurants and also for our visitors. Outdoor patios are very common in downtown areas around Ontario and we are very happy that they are now in Haliburton. Please stop by to enjoy your favourite meal, or just chill out with your "social circle" friends chatting over a cold beverage.

We also have our hanging flower baskets to help beautify our village. The flower baskets suffered some wind and frost damage just as they were put up the second week of June. Who would have thought that we would have frost for three consecutive nights, and it is just not possible to cover 70 hanging planters. But we are very grateful to our flower maintenance man for bringing the planters back to life.

Although times are a-changing, Downtown Haliburton continues to be the heart of the village. Please #buycloseby and support the businesses that support you because we are #strongertogether! Wear your mask, and wash your hands, and be kind to one another.

BIA in



cindy
campbell

The Village

points of view

Joining the mob

THE OTHER DAY, without any warning, Jenn brought home a pitchfork and wheelbarrow.

My only hope is that she did this because we are about to join an angry mob. Pitchforks are, as well all know, the perfect accoutrement for joining any group of people who are about to storm a castle by torchlight. With any luck at all, that is the main reason she brought these things home.

As we all know, there are worse reasons. That is why I gingerly broached the subject when she first parked them by the shed I was hiding in. I needed to be sure I was on the right track.

"Jenn," I asked, "are there any castles around here that I don't know about? You know, the kind where mad scientists build horrible abominations that do nothing but frighten and inflict pain on innocent folks – like, say, wheelbarrows or lawn mowers."

"Did you go to a batting cage and forget to wear a helmet again?" she replied.

The answer was hardly important. What was important was why I could never recognize a high, fast curveball until it was too late? And, perhaps even more importantly, why she had suddenly changed the topic?

As we all know, there are only two reasons why someone would willingly introduce a pitchfork and wheelbarrow into an otherwise happy relationship. One is to ruin it by proposing the kind of large-scale gardening and yard work that requires them. The second is, as previously mentioned, to join an angry mob and storm a castle.

Given the environment, the heightened sensitivity towards others, and times we live in, I was quickly able to rule out gardening and yard work. So, I immediately did an internet search to ascertain where the nearest castle worth storming was.

It turned out Dundurn Castle in Hamilton was closest. This made sense

since Jenn had recently been in the area.

It also explained the wheelbarrow. For no angry mob worth its furiously shaking fists would drive to the place they were about to storm. No sir, part of the reason a mob gets so angry is because they have to walk a good distance.

Apparently, Jenn wanted us to be furious, because, according to Google Maps, Dundurn Castle was a 54-hour walk from here. Therefore, it made perfect sense to bring a wheelbarrow along. In fact, it is the perfect tool to carry torches there and the stuff we plunder on the way back.

The big question was why? What had the people of Hamilton done this time?

Then it occurred to me. Maybe, like so many of us, she was angry about their so-called Hamilton Mountain!

Hey, who hasn't Googled Hamilton Mountain and, instead of seeing the puny hill in Hamilton, viewed, by mistake, breathtaking photos of Hamilton Mountain in Washington State, which is actually a real mountain.

Then, based on that false image, who among us has not planned a mountain climbing expedition in order to place our flag atop the peak of the "Hamilton Mountain" in Hamilton?

It is an honest mistake, made infinitely worse when you discover there isn't a Sherpa guide to be hired anywhere in the Greater Hamilton Area and that local people make fun of "tourists" who wear lederhosen and shorts, which is perfectly acceptable mountaineering-wear in most other parts of the world, by the way.

Show me a person who hasn't made this mistake and I'll show you a person who can recognize a high, fast curve ball.

The question then is why hasn't Tourism Hamilton done something about this?

No wonder Jenn wanted to join an angry mob and storm Dundurn Castle! Look, I don't normally use exclamation marks in a column, but I think you can see even I'm getting a little worked up!

So, if you have a pitchfork and an old pair of lederhosen you last wore in Hamilton, you might consider joining us for a good old-time angry mobbing. (Please wear masks and abide by social distancing rules.) Sure, it's a 54-hour walk but remember, it could be a whole lot worse. You could be doing large-scale gardening or yard work.

It's really up to you. As for myself, I'm filling up the wheelbarrow with torches right now.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

More than 200 people attended the grand opening of the Haliburton Marine Limited, in 1969. The building was constructed under a partnership deal with the owners, Roy Windover, Gary and Lyle McKnight. Later on, the Len Ellison came into the business with the two McKnight boys and they bought out the shares owned by Roy Windover. Following Len Ellison's death, Mrs. Ellison took his place in the business, and later sold out to Gary and Lyle. The building has weathered a serious fire and a tornado. Among the visiting guests and dignitaries are from the left, Gary McKnight, Mrs. Lyle McKnight, Lyle McKnight, Mrs. Roy Windover, Mrs. Harold Applegate, Harold Applegate, from Cincinnati, Ohio (who purchased the first boat when the business opened its doors), Bill Scott MP, Charles Brandon, Roy Brohm, Percy Bolender, Lloyd Coneybeare, Holly Sisson and Roy Windover is at the microphone. The ribbon cutting ceremony was shared between Bill Scott MP, and Roy Brohm, who at that time was reeve of the Municipality of Dysart et al. (Previously published in the Echo in 2009.)

letters to the editor

It ain't over yet

To the Editor,

We are all getting anxious for life to return to normal and for the most part, we have all been vigilant in endless hand washing, distancing from our friends and family and putting up with foggy glasses when we don those awful masks. We have protected each other and our care workers. Lately, I have seen such a lack of mask-wearing in town that it is hard to understand. Is it visitors, towns-

people...or both? The pandemic may be well controlled here but is still rampant and even increasing right next door to us. We cannot let down our guard or pardon visitors for their lack of safety. Wear a mask! I'll protect you but you must also protect me. That's the only way we will get back to that "normal" we so desire.

Jackie Gentle
Haliburton

Much to be missed from WG Canada Day

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper
754-2278

We're all missing Canada Day festivities. The committee that works so hard each year to ensure that everyone is pleased with the event is relieved of many duties. However, we'd all be pleased to take part again if it means the children's races could be run, that bikes could get best prizes for decoration, that food could be bought and served, that pics could be up for competition of excellence, that a citizen could be recognized for faithful service in the community, that fireworks could be showered in colour at the close of the day. In short, there's a lot to be missed. I've only mentioned a few

we'd have presented if COVID-19 hadn't happened. As it is, I think the citizens of the community can be proud of having obeyed the restrictions and kept the virus at bay. Thanks for being watchful of other's and our own health throughout the trials of partial isolation, so hard on people who normally keep in touch, and on extended families.

Sad to report a couple of bereavements: Robin (Stamp) Woodcock's husband, Bob died after some lingering illness. What a loss! Margot (Austen) Sisson's father has also passed away after a long illness. Our sympathy goes out to these people and to all who grieve these beloved people.

Those who like restaurant meals and service are now happy to have at least patio or take-out's delivered. Lakeside Golf Course has patio service only, and West G Pizza continue to serve us in this way. The West Guilford snack bar next to the laundromat also takes orders for pick-up meals. We're lucky to have these people who stay on duty while standing by the restrictions placed on them.



Melissa and Michael Anderson said a beach mat that was installed last month at Rotary Beach makes Head Lake accessible to Melissa, who uses a wheelchair. /Submitted photo

Making beach accessible 'a wonderful gift' for family

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Melissa Anderson is celebrating summer by dipping her toes in the lake.

What is a simple act for some posed challenges for Melissa, due to accessibility barriers at public beaches that make mobility tricky, sometimes impossible, for people who use wheelchairs and walkers.

Last month, Dysart et al installed an accessible beach mat at Rotary Beach at Head Lake Park in Haliburton, and now Melissa can access the water without the stress of trying to get her mobility device through the sand.

"The ramp has given her hope that she can again swim in the lakes," said Melissa's husband Michael Anderson.

Melissa, a Haliburton resident, unexpectedly spent six months in hospital last year after a dissection of her right middle cerebral artery, which led to clots that formed a blockage, resulting in artery hemorrhaging in May.

"It required her right bone flap to be removed due to swelling, a procedure that was followed by it being reinserted in August," said Michael. "It led to her left side being immobile and terrible neuropathic pain."

Despite pain, Michael said Melissa is slowly recovering.

The couple, together with their daughter, have made Rotary Beach a frequent

destination over the years.

"Many castles have been built in the sand there," said Melissa.

As COVID-19 restrictions, which had kept the beach closed, were lifted, the Andersons began returning to the spot.

"Upon arriving at the beach on June 18th, we saw what we thought at first was a slip and slide," said Michael. "When we realized it was an accessibility ramp, Melissa was ecstatic. We had tried to get her to the water before but the sand was a huge barrier. Concern for her chair to become stuck in the water kept us from trying. Now, with the ramp, she can quite easily reach the water and submerge her feet. Melissa has even managed to stand on it."

Tamara Wilbee, Dysart et al CAO, said the beach mat is part of a pilot project the municipality is exploring to determine if it works well before expanding the option to other beaches, and was paid for through a grant from the Enabling Accessibility Fund.

Accessibility features including boardwalks, accessible fishing platforms, rentable all-terrain wheelchairs and ramps leading over the sand into the water have become increasingly popular in recent years, with beaches throughout the province – including Wasaga Beach, Woodbine Beach and at Sandbanks and Bonnechere Provincial Parks – offering the option for beach goers.

"It feels like a wonderful gift from the community for anyone who has issues with accessibility," said Melissa.

Little Free Library for kids coming to Abbey Gardens

Take a book, return a book! It's a free book exchange! The Haliburton and District Lions are committed to putting books in the hands of local children. We know that the more books children have in their homes, the better chance of reading experiences and the better readers they will become.

Little Free Library is a non-profit organization (littlefreelibrary.org) and these libraries are known world-wide for building community and their unique and personal touch. We were excited to unveil our first Log Home Little Free Library on July 8, 2017 and its permanent home is at the West Guilford Shopping Centre in West Guilford.

The Enchanted Forest at Abbey Gardens is the new home of our second Little Free Library. It is the perfect place for our Tudor Home Library. Both libraries were designed and built by friend of the Lions, Peter Stelter and his commitment to detail and excellence is always appreciated!

The Haliburton and District Lions Little Free Libraries are an ongoing initiative of our Reading Action Committee and our club views them as legacy projects celebrating both 150 years of Lions International and 100 years of Lions in Canada. The commitment to our Little Free Libraries does not end with building and installation. The Lions maintain the libraries and keep them full of new and gently used children's books.

It has been fun to note that with our first Little Free Library the books are often kept by children and passed on to others and that is just perfect! Books in the hands of children is, after all our goal! It does mean, however, that we are always on the lookout for more books and in the past, our amazing community has answered that call. If you have gen-



Peter Stelter stands with the Little Free Library he made on behalf of the Haliburton and District Lions Club, which has been installed at Abbey Gardens. The library will be filled with children's books. /JENN WATT Staff

tly used children's books that you would like to donate to the Lions, please contact me, Lion Gail, chair of the Reading Action Committee at gatesstelter@gmail.com or call/text 705-455-2772. Thank you and we hope you will go and visit the wonderful Enchanted Forest at Abbey Gardens!

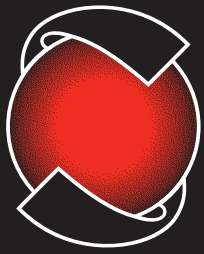
Submitted by Gail Stelter



Help the community win

Organizing committee members for the Highland Yard from left, Jane Boyd, Susan Russel and the race's chairperson Jack Russel hold up their hands as a gesture of triumph for anyone who has already or plans to run in this year's virtual Highland Yard. The run, which can be done anywhere, is a fundraiser for Places for People, which assists the Haliburton County non-profit organization in its efforts to provide safe, secure and affordable housing for members of the community at risk of homelessness. Deadline to register is Aug. 2 at 11 a.m. The submission deadline for results is Aug. 2 at 11:59 p.m. Email info@highlandyard.ca for more information. /DARREN LUM Staff

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As our economy reopens from the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, this message is even more important.

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Story of love and tragedy inspired by true events

JENN WATT

Editor

Marie Gage had heard stories in her family about how her grandparents came to Canada. Rumours about the Titanic, her grandfather being a footman to royalty, and an epic canoe trip from Port Nelson, Man., to Winnipeg intrigued her. But there was little clarity; no one had spent the time to look into them further.

About a decade ago, she decided to investigate, searching for documents on Ancestry.ca, learning how to navigate Library and Archives Canada and Archives of Manitoba, tracking down records from 100 years ago.

"There was so much that was rumoured in our family that I can't believe nobody knew [things like] what kind of connection did Grandpa have with the Titanic? Why did he take this canoe trip from Port Nelson? There were pieces that were known, but nobody had taken the time to get interested," Gage said.

Once she began her work, a story of love, adventure and tragedy unfolded involving her own ancestors. At first, she thought she would record the information for her family's purposes only, but as time went on, she realized she had the makings of a book.

"I started out thinking I was writing a short story, and thinking I was writing something just for the family, but the more I got into the details of the story, the more fascinated I became by what my grandparents had actually gone through – and the more I thought the story needed to be told more broadly because it represents what our ancestors had to do to come to this place that we enjoy now without the struggle that they went through to provide us with that opportunity," she said. "... I then [switched] to thinking I'd write a novella, but the story became too big to fit, so it became a novel."

That novel, *A Ring of Promises*, was published as an e-book on Amazon.ca in June and is now available in paperback both online and at Master's Book Store in Haliburton.

The book follows the life of Will Parker, an English footman, who travels to Canada in hopes of a better life, leaving behind his fiancée in Scotland with a promise ring.

Gage, who has written several children's books, said she decided to write a fictitious account of her grandparents' story because there were gaps that were unlikely to ever be definitively answered.

"There are anchor points such as knowing that my grandfather was a footman that are truths," said Gage, "and I know that he worked as a logger in New Brunswick in French Village when he came. All of the geographic locations he went

“

...the more I got into the details of the story, the more fascinated I became by what my grandparents had actually gone through ...

— Marie Gage

to and the work that he did when he was in those [locations] are true and the trials that his fiancée was having back in Scotland were real. But I didn't know enough of the detail of the motivation and exactly how things had unfolded, so I took what I call the anchor points of the story and used my research and my imagination to fill in the blanks and create a compelling story."

Brenda Peddigrew, a fellow writer from the Haliburton Highlands, gave an enthusiastic review of the book on Amazon.ca: "Marie Gage has made this time period – not to mention her characters – come alive. They dance off the page. And not only the characters, but this period of history, in detail that pulled me in ... the back-and-forthness of the narrative, the details of life in Scotland and the hardships of the Canadian north ... I could go on, but I finished this book in deep fascination!"

The promise ring featured in the book is the one Gage has worn on her finger since she was 19 or 20 years old. She said she always felt compelled to wear it and that she feels a connection to her paternal grandparents, which motivated her work on their story.

"Some authors talk about having their ancestors dictate a story. I don't think mine quite dictated it, but they certainly seemed to be encouraging me to write it," she said.

She encourages everyone to spend time documenting their family history, talking to their elders and recording what they have to say.

"My number one piece of advice to young people is to get interested in this while the older generation of your family is available to fill in the blanks for you," she said. "Because once they're gone, a lot of history is gone."

Gage is holding a book signing, complete with physical distancing and hygiene protocols, at Master's Book Store on Highland Street in Haliburton on Saturday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There, you can purchase a copy of the book for \$20, have it signed, and meet Gage. You can also find the e-book at Amazon.ca or on <https://mariegage.ca/a-ring-of-promises>.



Author Marie Gage will be holding a book signing (following COVID-19 protocols) at Master's Book Store on Saturday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Her new novel, *A Ring of Promises*, is a fictional account based on true events from her grandparents' past. /Photo submitted

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Highlands East community builder, the late-Hilda Clark is remembered for her love and support of her community and is memorialized by a bench created by area artist Wayne Quibell of Highland Creek Builders. Commissioned by the Wilberforce Fun-Raising Committee, the bench will also act as a reminder for the township to complete the Herlihey Park, which was a wish of Clark's. It is located at Agnew's General Store and will be transported to the new park when it is completed. /Submitted by Jodi Rupnow

Bench honours Hilda Clark's commitment to community

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Hilda Clark's strength and unyielding support of her community is being honoured through a carved wooden bench created by Wayne Quibell of Highland Creek Builders. The memorial was commissioned by Clark's friends and fellow members of the Fun-Raising Committee of Highlands East, which is the former Recreation Committee for Monmouth.

The bench does more than commemorate their friend, it also acts as a reminder to the township to complete the planned Herlihey Park Clark wanted to be finished in her lifetime.

"She was always active in our community and [spurred] us along to improve our community," said committee member Kathy Rogers in an email. "She worked so hard for so many things and was such a wealth of information. She was very determined to get the park going."

Rogers said her friend was vocal about her wishes and made it known to Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton.

"She often told him to get it open before she died. This is our way of letting Hilda put her mark out there for the township to remember we need to finish the park and at the same time commemorating Hilda and donating a beautiful bench that will get installed in our park," she said.

Rogers said the bench is currently at Agnew's General Store, which allowed it to be its home until Herlihey Park is completed. When it's ready to be moved, the artist, Quibell, has agreed to transport it to its permanent home.

Clark, who was born March 13, 1933 died on Aug. 7 last year. She was well-

known in the community for her columns in *The Haliburton County Echo*, her commitment to the Red Cross Outpost Historic House Museum, as a regular with the Loop Troupe Theatre Group, congregation member of St. Margaret's Anglican Church, as a member of the retired teachers' group, and a committee member with the Fun-Raising Committee.

The site for Herlihey Park is bordered by Wilberforce's downtown area along Loop Road and Dark Lake and was donated to the township by the Marcus Family. Carol Marcus is the daughter of Beatrice and Harold Herlihey, who was a well-known local community member, municipal politician and operated the Wilberforce Veneer and Lumber Company on the site for the park.

The plans for the seven acre park include shoreline and meadow walking trails, a beach and swim area, a central lawn, a multi-use picnic pavilion, a playground and a boat dock.

The park is planned to be built in four phases at an estimated cost of close to \$100,000 per year.

Clark has also been recognized as a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal recipient, the Retired Teachers' of Ontario Award of Merit recipient, and as a Senior of the Year.

Another committee member, Jodi Rupnow wrote on social media:

"Hilda was an active member of their volunteer committee and extremely passionate about the new Herlihey Park on the old veneer property. The volunteer committee is hoping that the creation of the park will get underway and they will see the bench in its rightful place soon. But for now we love having this beautiful dedication right here at Agnew's!"

With files from Sue Tiffin and Jenn Watt



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT TO ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: Tuesday, July 28TH, 2020
TIME: 9:05 am
LOCATION: The public meeting will take place as an electronic meeting only. The meeting will be recorded through the conferencing application and live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Lands of Taylor
 - Purpose and Effect: The proposed amending By-law would change the zoning of the subject lands to recognize the location of existing and proposed development. Site specific zone provisions are proposed to recognize the lot area, front lot line setback, rear lot line setback and exterior side lot line setback.
 - Zone change from Rural Type 1 (RU1) to Rural Residential-xx (RR-xx)
 - Location: Con 2 Pt Lot 21 and Pt Closed Rd Allowance, Geographic Township of Harcourt, Municipality of Dysart et al.
2. Lands of Wood and Nichol
 - Purpose and Effect: The proposed amending By-law would change the zoning of the subject lands to accurately delineate the Environmental Protection area boundary and create a developable lot area for residential purposes.
 - Zone change from Rural Type 1 (RU1) and Environmental Protection (EP) to Rural Residential Zone (RR) and Environmental Protection (EP)
 - Location: Part Lot 16, Concession 10, Parts 1 and 2, 19R-6344 Geographic Township of Dysart, Municipality of Dysart et al

Due to the Covid-19 Emergency, Council passed By-law 2020-35 to amend the Municipality of Dysart et al's Procedural By-Law to permit electronic participation in meetings for Council, Local Boards and Committees. **There will not be an in-person meeting; this meeting will be conducted in an electronic format only.**

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Municipal Clerk at mbishop@dysartetal.ca.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION about this application, including a copy of the draft by-law, is available by contacting Kris Orsan, Senior Planner at korsan@dysartetal.ca.

RIGHT OF APPEAL: For information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the Planning and Land Information Department during regular office hours (Monday to Friday – 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM).

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 7th day of July, 2020.

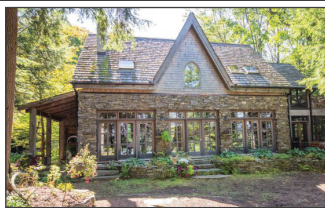
Kris Orsan, CPT
Senior Planner, Planning and Land Information



Jennifer Bacon**
Dean Michel*
705-286-2138
x28

Shadow Lake \$699,000

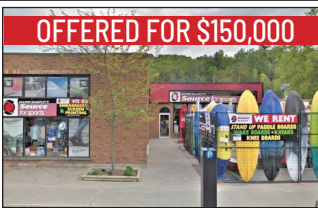
- Over 300 feet of prime Shadow Lake waterfront on 16 vacant acres
- Developed shoreline is sandy with a gradual, easy entry. Potential for severance



Adele Barry
705-457-0306

Redstone Lake \$1,590,000

- Custom-built Timber-frame lakeside estate
- 3 levels, 3000 Sq Ft, 4 bdrms, 2 baths
- 600' waterfrontage & 42 Acres of privacy



Drew Bishop**
Kristin Bishop*
457-2128 x23

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- Successful, thriving sporting goods and clothing business
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Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

Canning Lake \$669,000

- Renovated 2+2 bedroom cottage and 1 bath
- Insulated with new electrical panel and plumbing
- Large deck for entertaining and great lake view
- Terraced lot slopes gently to nice waterfront



Andy Campbell
854-0292

Minden Rent-All \$800,000

- Profitable Rent-All business
- Ideal for mechanically inclined
- Possible Share Purchase financing



Gloria Carnochan*
754-1932

Paradise on Bitter Lk \$639,000

- 3 Bds, 2 Bath, Ensuite, Open Kitchen/LR /DR
- Priv., Shallow Entry To 12 Ft At Dock, Granite
- Turn Key, WI FI, 1.5 Garage, 4 Season



Mark Denny**
457-0473

Haliburton Home \$224,900

- In the Heart of Haliburton Village
- 2 Bdrm, Carport, Screened Gazebo
- Great Starter or Retirement Home
- Walking distance to town & beach



Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 26

Commercial Units for Lease

- 1000 sq ft, end unit, HWY 35 and CR 21
- Roughed in for eat in/take out food service
- Perfect for Pizza/Fish + Chips ETC
- Excellent Lease Options



Lindsay Elder**
457-5878

Brady Lake Lot \$109,999

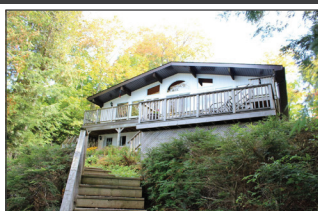
- Western Exposure for sun all day
- Dead end road between Property & Lake
- Partially owned waterfront
- Stunning water views



Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 29

Haliburton Lake \$894,500

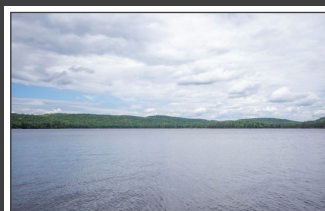
- 3-bedroom 2.5 bath modern lakefront home
- Spectacular view, deep water off the dock
- Renovated Boathouse, 2 double car garages
- 1280 Sq Ft garage/shop with high ceilings



Susanne James*
& Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 33

Miskwabi Lake \$699,900

- 4-season cottage or home on awesome 2-lake chain
- Clean rock shoreline, big lake view, sunset exposure
- Municipal road access, 20 minutes from Haliburton Village



David Lee*
286-2138 x 27

Percy Lake \$720,000

- Private 3.9 acre building lot with 555' of water frontage
- Incredible point lot with level building area, big lake views
- Driveway already installed



Donna McCallum*
455-2054

Silver Beach \$479,000

- Open concept, 3-bedroom, 2 bath condo
- Located in a premium no maintenance Lifestyle community on Lake Kashagawigamog



Brandon Nimigon*
457-2128 x 27

East Moore Lake \$799,000

- Custom-crafted 4 season, under 2H from GTA
- Open concept interior, sunroom & WO to deck
- 3-bedroom, 2 bath, large second level loft
- Extreme privacy, to 239' of deep clean shoreline



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

Haliburton Home \$159,000

- Great in-town rental opportunity!
- 1-bedroom room with open concept living/dining
- Pretty corner lot with apple trees, green space



Kirsten Rae*
286-2138 x 30

Industrial Park Rd \$1,350,000

- 12,000 sq ft of mixed use industrial and commercial space
- Sitting on a private 6.75 acre lot in Haliburton
- Unlimited possibilities with this building!



Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Fortescue Lake \$549,900

- Well kept 3-bedroom cottage with Sunroom
- Extras include bunkie, boat house & water toys
- Fully equipped, call for more details!



Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

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Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 28

Miskwabi Lake \$449,000

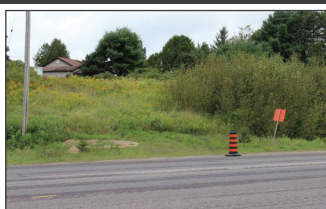
- Idyllic 1920 Sq Ft country home
- 2+2 Bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms
- Open concept living, fully renovated
- Deeded access to Miskwabi Lake



Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 32

Overlooking Green Lk \$489,000

- Bungalow w/ Granny Flat
- 2.3 Acres, 496' Rd Frontage
- Dock & Pergola Lakeside
- Commercial zoning for multiple uses



Tom Wilkinson
286-2138 x 25

Minden Building Lot \$169,900

- Prime Hwy 35 location
- Existing highway access
- Great location for your new business



Andrea Wilson**
457-2128 x 25

Percy Lake \$650,000

- Private beach on 2 sides of the property
- Cottage features 1300+ sq ft on 1.49 Acres
- 3 bdrms, 2 baths, loft, full basement & more!

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HHSS students' efforts earn charities \$5,000

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

During the uncertainty of the times, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students brought some added financial

security with a \$5,000 grant to two local charities through the Youth Philanthropic Initiative where student groups select a local charity to research and then educate their peers with presentations, which are then judged based on the execution of their work, promoting the non-profit organization.

Although the second semester's disruption did not allow for a second set of student presentations to be eligible for a year-end presentation, YPI decided to divide the \$5,000 into three shares, to be distributed to the top three groups from the first semester.

Two of the three groups chose Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association, awarding \$3,333 for the Minden based charity that offers people of all ages with "therapeutic riding, youth outreach and horsemanship programs for children and adults with unique considerations, mental health concerns and those who are abled differently," and the third group used their \$1,667 for the Heat Bank Haliburton County, which provides assistance to residents in need of heating security.

Student Jocelyn Chumbley, who worked with Emily Alexander, Cassidy McMullen and Logan Malette, said it was "exhilarating" to give Walkabout Farms funds to do their important work.

"My team and myself worked very hard to demonstrate to our classmates the good that Walkabout Farms does in our community. We had the pleasure to meet its founder Jennifer Semach, and she was very kind to let us come and see the facilities. It costs a lot to keep these horses healthy and she's been working with keeping the facility going out of her pocket (with generous donors helping might I add)," she wrote in an email. "Many of the horses are rescued from slaughter houses and given a new life helping at risk and disabled kids. The therapy has helped many kids be more comfortable and happy in everyday life. This money will help keep them going, and even expand to help more people! It's such a good cause and we're excited to help keep them in business, working with our community and making it a better place!" Jocelyn said getting to tour the facility, led by founder Jennifer Semach, helped their presentation be far more affecting.

Teacher Jessica Lloyd agreed, noting the students' compassion stood out.

"They really showed interest in the organization. They commented on how taking the tour with Jennifer and learning more about the services they provide made them want to spend time volunteering there. At the end of the day that is what the purpose of this project is. Getting to know the needs of your community and how you can play a part in being a contributing member," Lloyd wrote in an email.

Teacher Catherine Andress, who taught the other student group comprised of Courtney Semach, Nikita Watson, Bella Smolen, Gracyn Whitehead and Emma Tidey, wrote in an email her students "produced a really strong presentation."

Courtney, daughter of Jennifer Semach, was the "emotional horsepower in the group. The others brought their considerable organizational and speaking skills to the presentation. They conveyed how Walkabout wasn't just a fun place to hang out with horses, but how it plays an important therapeutic role. It almost made me want to take up riding, which, given my level of coordination, would be disastrous."

Teacher Paul Longo, who has been the contact for YPI over the years, said the idea to award the grant to more than one group came from the possibility there wouldn't be a second semester of in-school classes to allow for group presentations.

"They were the ones who suggested some of the ideas of breaking the \$5,000 in portions and that way it honours some of the kids that would have gone on to pre-

“
At the end of the day that is what the purpose of this project is. Getting to know the needs of your community and how you can play a part in being a contributing member.

— Jessica Lloyd, HHSS teacher

sent in June," he said.

He said the three student groups were chosen from a field of students from three first semester classes, totalling nearly 15 groups. Other charities represented by student groups include SIRCH and Cottage Dreams.

In previous years, there would be one group per class that would advance and present at a year-end event, competing for the \$5,000 grant.

The YPI grant motivates high school students across the continent to learn about local charities, discover their importance within the community and empowers them to advocate for the charity.

The Heat Bank was chosen by the third group of Brooke Stover, Ava Smith and Hunter Winder.

Brooke said her group believed the Heat Bank was a worthwhile recipient because of the need it fulfills in helping residents stay warm during the cooler months of the year.

"To earn money for the Heat Bank it means a lot to us because of two reasons. One we want to help the Heat Bank and our community and two it feels amazing to be able to help those in need. We think that the whole thing just really shows how easy it is to support our community," she wrote in an email.

"In our presentation we started talking about who the Heat Bank is and what they do for our community. Then we talked about what they would do with the grant and examples of what they have done in the past," she wrote in an email. "At the end to try and prove even further why the Heat Bank should be awarded the grant, we decided to include scenarios of what it's like for people in their everyday life that do not have heat. For example, we first told a scenario of a child with access to heat getting ready for school and then we told the same scenario but with a child that doesn't have access to heat. We did this because a lot of our classmates have no idea what it's like to not have access to heat, so by telling these scenarios we were able to open their minds to what some people in our community go through every single day."

The Heat Bank's co-ordinator Tina Jackson said she was surprised by the donation, which is the second consecutive year the non-profit was a recipient.

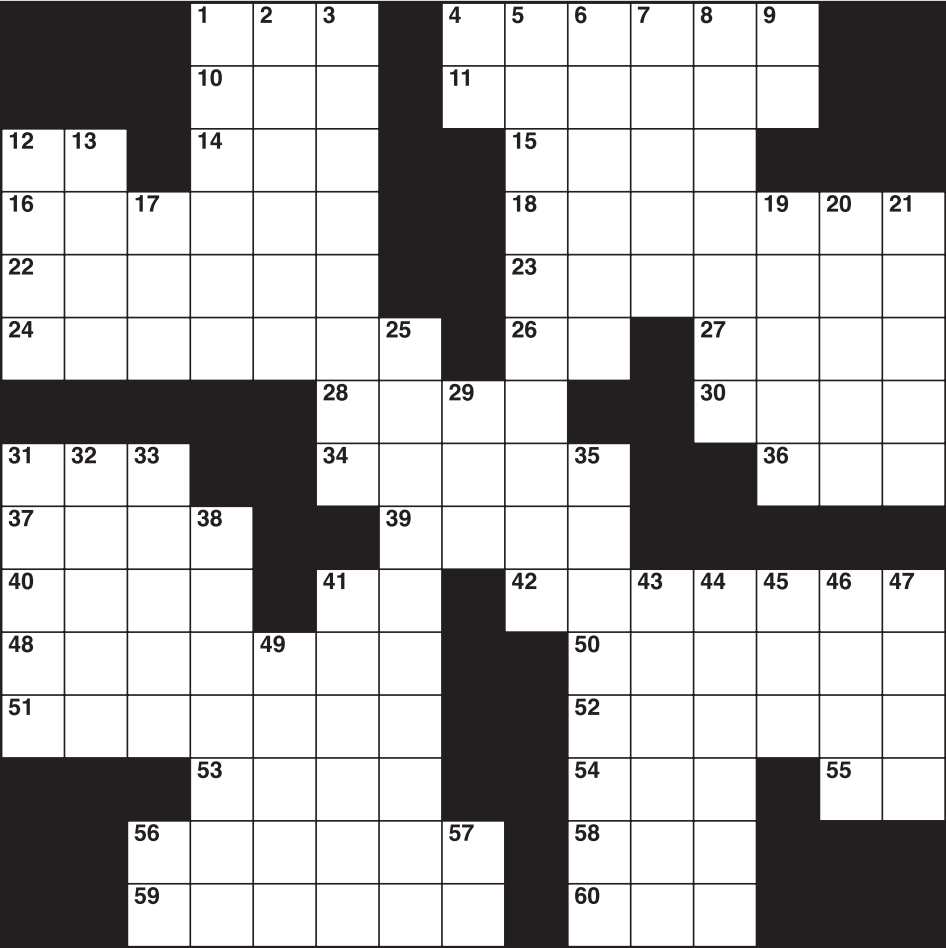
"It really is a testament to local youth who are informing themselves on local issues. Both of the winners this year (Heat Bank and Walkabout Farms) are not just non-profits operating in Haliburton County but non-profits that were grown right here in Haliburton County to address needs in our community. It really is a special honour to be recognized by local youth for the work we are doing!" she said.

Crossword brought to you by

Ken Barry
705-754-5280
ken@kenbarry.com







CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Opposite of on
- 4. Creator
- 10. No seats available
- 11. About springtime
- 12. Flagship ESPN show (abbr.)
- 14. Automobile
- 15. A matchup
- 16. Porous volcanic rock
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Not written in any key
- 23. Revolved
- 24. Archrival
- 26. Within
- 27. Smoker's accessory
- 28. Disfigure
- 30. Primordial matter
- 31. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- 34. Kisses
- 36. Some is iced
- 37. A way to derive
- 39. Unaccompanied by others
- 40. Discontinued Google app
- 41. Tony B. left his heart

there

- 42. Condiment
- 48. Ancient Italian city
- 50. One who distributes payoff money
- 51. Guarantees
- 52. Highly decorative
- 53. Strike with a stick
- 54. Pie _ _ mode
- 55. Spanish be
- 56. Glued
- 58. A way to drench
- 59. Part of the body
- 60. Changes the color

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Passerine birds
- 2. Noisy quarrel
- 3. The front arm or leg of an animal
- 4. Early multimedia
- 5. Golden years
- 6. Large mollusk
- 7. Small arm of the sea
- 8. Persian jurisdiction
- 9. Atomic #81
- 12. From end to end
- 13. Adorable

17. Ma

- 19. Nearly falling
- 20. Portable conical tent
- 21. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 25. Fish with high dorsal fins
- 29. Equal (prefix)
- 31. Aquatic plant genus
- 32. Choppers
- 33. Hand parts
- 35. Region bordering the sea
- 38. Well-liked
- 41. Nap
- 43. It's used to make beer
- 44. Related on the father's side
- 45. Senior officer
- 46. Delicacy (archaic)
- 47. Figures
- 49. A way to take away
- 56. Beloved sandwich
- 57. Symptom typical of withdrawal (abbr.)

Answers on page 15



Wild neighbours

Dave Allen snapped this photo of “new kids in the neighbourhood” – two spotted fawns seen with their mom in Haliburton.

Mark your calendars for hazardous waste days

The Municipality of Dysart et al will hold three Household Hazardous Waste Days to make the recycling and safe disposal of household hazardous waste more convenient for residents.

Household Hazardous Waste Days will take place on the following dates and are for Dysart residents only:

- Saturday, July 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Haliburton Landfill, 222 Industrial Park Road, Haliburton
- Saturday, August 15, 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Harcourt Landfill, 1123 Packard Road, Harcourt
- Saturday, September 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
West Guilford Landfill, 11903 Hwy 118, West Guilford

Acceptable items for drop-off include aerosol cans, automotive fluids, auto and household batteries, cleaners, fluorescent and CFL light bulbs, gasoline, paint (latex and oil); pesticides, herbicides, insecticides; propane cylinders and tanks, and used motor oil. These materials often have the corrosive, explosive, flammable, or poisonous symbol on them. No commercial waste. For a complete list of acceptable and unacceptable items, please visit www.dysartet.ca.

During these events, Dysart residents may drop off these items free of charge. Residents must present their valid Dysart landfill identification user card. To comply with COVID-19 safety protocols, residents cannot exit their vehicles at the household hazardous waste drop off location. Instead, event staff will unload household hazardous waste from residents' vehicles.

Improper disposal of household hazardous waste can contaminate our soil, water, forests, air, and wildlife. Recycling of household hazardous waste is important to protecting our environment. In 2019, 22,470 kg (49,538 lbs) of household hazardous waste was dropped off at Dysart's Household Hazardous Waste Days, demonstrating residents' commitment to conserving our environment.

Submitted

‘Lockdown Awards’ offered to graduating students

JENN WATT

Editor

“

Slowed by labour action and then upturned by the pandemic and social distancing, this graduating class is unique in the history of Ontario high school education.

— Tim Shauf, Commonwell CEO

Recognizing the unique graduation experience of students who finished the year during a pandemic, Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group announced on June 29 that it would be offering 100 graduating Grade 12 students who are continuing their education \$1,000 each.

Applicants are asked to share what they've learned during the COVID-19 pandemic by uploading a video to thecommonwell.ca/lockdown101. Videos will be posted publicly.

“Slowed by labour action and then upturned by the pandemic and social distancing, this graduating class is unique in the history of Ontario high school education,” Commonwell CEO Tim Shauf said in a press release. “The Commonwell contributes to growing community resiliency and this group has proven worthy; we thought a grant program that made their tuition more affordable

was a way to thank this graduating class, their parents and their communities. It's also a great way to share real stories from the pandemic – some funny, some bitter-sweet and some life-changing.”

Award winners will be announced Aug. 4.

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Taking aim at fun

Magnum Moshenko takes aim at the basket on Tuesday, June 30 at the Rotary Park in Haliburton. Temperatures soared above 30 degrees Celsius last week, drawing people to the park to swim, walk, play tennis and basketball. /DARREN LUM Staff



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Kellett's racing dreams realized in Indianapolis

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

A lifelong dream was realized this past Saturday when Dalton Kellett finished his first IndyCar race in Indianapolis.

From a racing journey that started with driving go-karts to eventually racing in the premiere open-wheeled racing circuit of North America, Dalton Kellett lived out a dream after he went wheel to wheel with the best drivers from around the world in a high speed chase in the GMR Grand Prix on Saturday, July 4 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis.

On Twitter, Kellett said, "Well that was a pretty awesome weekend."

Kellett, who finished the road course 21 places behind winner Scott Dixon, thanked his team AJ Foyt Racing in the same Twitter post for "putting me in a good position to get the most out of my rookie event."

He is the grandson of Glenn and Juanita Kellett, former residents of Minden..

Although his late-grandfather, who lived on Mountain Lake, was unable to witness history, his grandmother said before the race she would cheer him on from her home from London, Ont.



Dalton Kellett, who is the grandson of the late Glenn Kellett of Minden, lived out a dream, making his NTT IndyCar Series racing debut in the GMR Grand Prix on Saturday, July 4 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The rookie, who drives for AJ Foyt Racing, finished the road course 21st. ARCHIVE FILE photo by IMS Productions and submitted by Andretti Motorsports.

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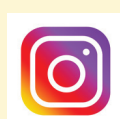
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Water Ambassadors' Golf Classic going ahead

The eighth annual Water Ambassadors Canada Golf Classic is going ahead on Thursday, July 23 at Pinestone Resort – one month later than usual. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, organizer Ursula Devolin said the event has been reconfigured to meet all physical distancing requirements based on discussions with the local health unit.

"Like everything else in 2020, this year's golf event will be different," Devolin said. "However, I'm confident it will be a great day for golfers and still give our supporters the opportunity to raise funds for clean drinking water in the developing world."

The biggest change this year is the golfers will tee-off at scheduled times, rather than the tournament's normal shotgun start. The first group will start at 8 a.m., with subsequent foursomes at 15-minute intervals until 11 a.m. After lunch, tee-offs will continue from 1 to 3 p.m. This agenda is a result of COVID-19 rules that require each golfer to get their own cart, and that all carts be thoroughly cleaned before being used by others. Another result of this year's agenda is that lunch will replace dinner.

"Ironically, the new format will actually make for better flow and a quicker round, as there will be less congestion on the course," Devolin said. "It's also better for golfers who prefer to tee-off in the morning and be off the course by lunchtime."

The primary objective of Water Ambassadors Canada's annual golf tournament is to raise funds to provide clean drinking water to communities in the developing world. This year's theme focuses on clean water for health and hygiene, with a focus on handwashing.

"Given the abundance of clean water here, there has always been a natural connection between Haliburton and the communities we help," said Barry Hart, who started Water Ambassadors Canada with his wife Heather Alloway almost 20 years ago.

Golfers are encouraged to register online early, as tee times will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Once registered, golfers will be contacted to set their tee time. People can register to golf, donate and sponsor event holes at www.waterambassadorscanada.org/golf. If there are any questions, contact Ursula Devolin at 705-455-2037.

Submitted

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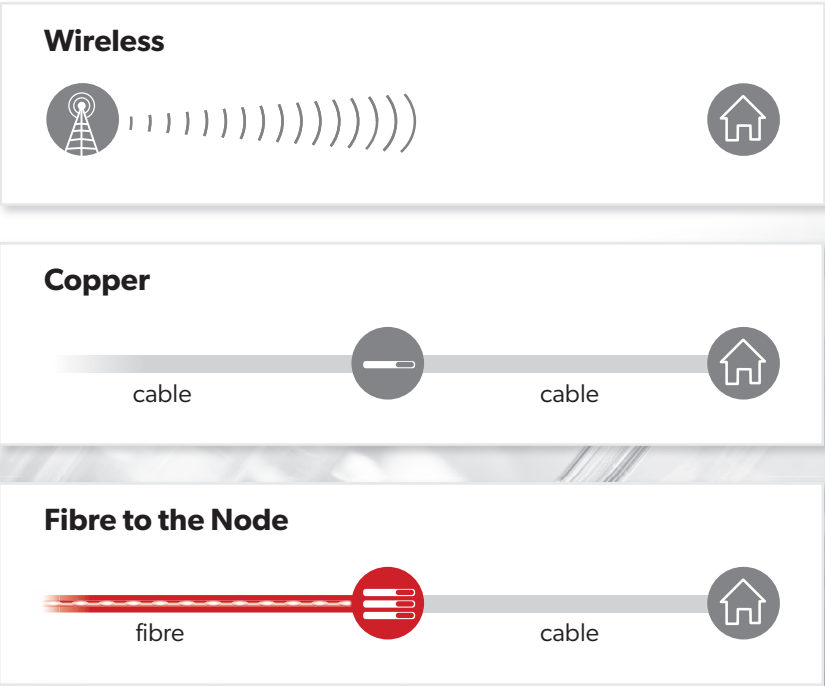


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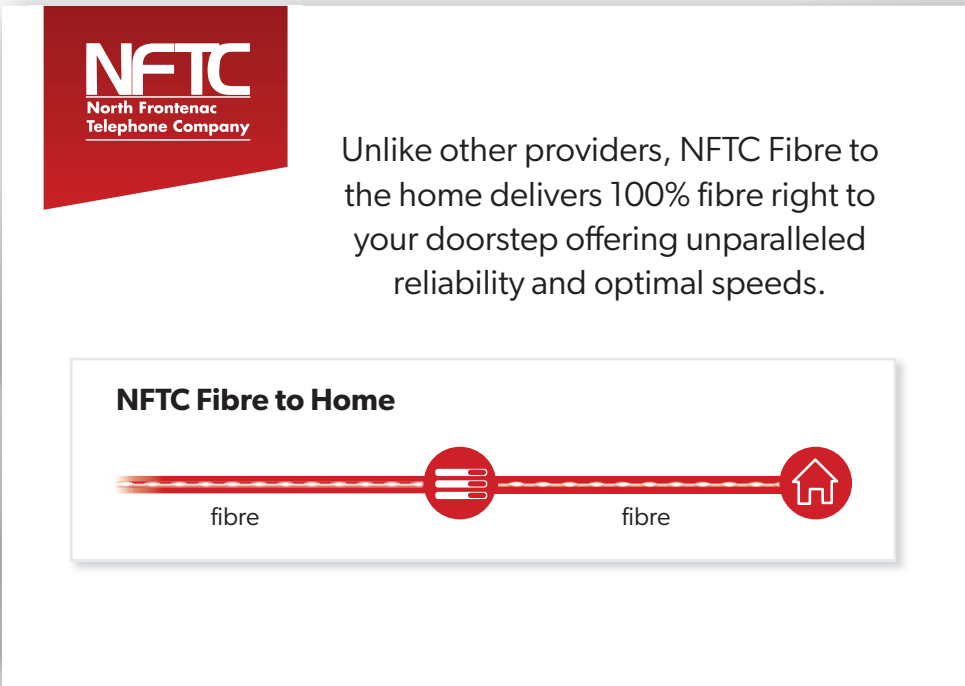
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Inside
THIS WEEK
County life

Lots to do, see
This week's issue is filled with Highlands life



Rhubarb Festival fun
page 21

Teachers have their say...

Local educators respond to students' ire over sports
pages 6 & 8

PWC's spawn complaints...

Police say new regulations will help **page 3**

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Ready, aim, fire: "Soldiers" with the Military Re-enactment Society of Canada load their muskets in preparation for a mock battle on Saturday afternoon as part of the Highland

Games festivities. The history buffs set up a realistic camp at the park with their families, cooking over a fire and dressing in period costumes. More Highland Games pictures on page 17.

Lakefront properties take brunt of AVA impact

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

As local clerk-treasurers look over the reams of assessment data that's been provided to them over the past few weeks, it seems that all the predictions about tax shifts will come to fruition.

"Waterfront properties are hard hit," says Snowdon clerk-treasurer Ernie Hills, who says that many waterfront properties — those on lakes more so than those on rivers — will see tax increases of 35 to 60% simply from an increase in assessment. There will also be increases due to municipal budget changes.

It's worse in small municipalities such as Snowdon because of the small commercial and industrial base to help share the tax shift load, he says.

He worries whether cottage owners will have the ability to pay the larger amount, let alone the willingness.

At a recent South Lake property owners association, he was told "we're only here on a seasonal basis, we're big players in the local economy, but we live somewhere else, where we're also being hit."

"There is still so much trouble in the economy, this impact will dampen it all down," Hills predicts.

And if this year's increases are bad for some, he worries about next year, when many of the one-time provincial grants to cover the impact of service downloading are no longer offered.

But with one group of property owners seeing an increase, it means others will see a

decrease, likely those with rural residential properties.

In Dysart et al's Ward II, which includes a lot of seasonal residences, 1,311 properties will see a property tax increase totalling \$227,000, Reeve Murray Fearrey said at Saturday night's annual general meeting of the Lake Kashagawigamog

Organization. Most increases will be under \$100, yet those with waterfront properties valued at \$120,000 will likely see their taxes go up \$300.

However, 1,575 people will see their taxes go down a total of \$198,000.

To get an idea of what their

See **Lakefront** page 4



Moose spotted on Haliburton's main street:

Artist Gailon Valleu of Donald surveys her handiwork on the wall of a building in The Village Square. She was commissioned by Larry VanLieshout to do a landscape mural as part of vanLieshout Realty's recent improvements to the main street courtyard. The 27' by 10' mural took her three weeks to complete.

• DINING & ENTERTAINMENT ... See County Life • REAL ESTATE ... see The Echo & County Life

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